

How to Enter a Cadastral Location

To search by location for a well registration in the Imaged Records database, the legal description must be converted as in the following example:

Legal Description "the SW quarter of the NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 4, Township 1N Range 8E"

should be entered as

Location A-1-0-8-0-4DAC

where

A = Quadrant of the state. This is derived from the township and range directions: *Township 1N Range 8E* (NE = A, NW = B, SW = C, SE = D)

1 = Township

0 = Represents a whole Township. Occasionally there is a ½ Township, and a 5 needs to be entered instead. The 0 or 5 must be entered, or search results won't appear.

8 = Range

0 = Represents a whole Range. Occasionally there is a ½ Range, and a 5 needs to be entered instead. The 0 or 5 must be entered, or search results won't appear.

4 = Section

D = ¼ Section, 160 acres

A = ¼ of the ¼ Section, 40 acres.

C = ¼ of the ¼ of the ¼ Section, 10 acres.

Letters are not case sensitive. Be sure to enter the dashes as shown in the example.

If the ¼ sections are not known, just enter a wildcard (*) in their place: Ex. A-1-0-8-0-4*. This search finds all wells in section 4. The wildcard character can be used anywhere within the Location or Well number.

Below I have attached the information gathered from a brochure that is displayed in the ADWR bookstore to further assist in formatting the search criteria for Cadastral Locations:

Legal Description of Well Location

The terms *cadastral location* and *legal description* both refer to a method of locating land according to a rectangular coordinate system commonly known as the Public Lands Survey. Much of Arizona has been mapped according to this system. The initial point of reference was arbitrarily chosen as the confluence of the Gila and Salt Rivers. From this initial point, a north-south meridian, and an east-west baseline, divide the state into four unequal quadrants (A, B, C, D). (Baseline Road in Phoenix is named for our state's baseline. See the map below.)

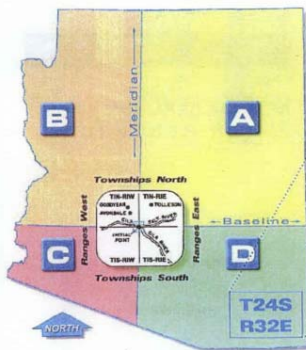
Each quadrant was surveyed and subdivided into congressional townships, with each square-shaped township typically six miles on each side, or 36 square miles in all. (Not all townships are exactly the same size due to landform variations and the curvature of the earth.) Beginning at the initial point and the number 1, each township is designated as being so many six-mile units – called **Townships** (capital T) – north or south of the baseline, and so many six-mile units – called **Ranges** – east or west of the meridian. The Township and Range together define a particular township.

Each township is divided into 36 equal parts called **sections**. Each section is approximately one square mile, about 640 acres. Each 640-acre section can be subdivided into four 160-acre quarters. Each 160-acre quarter is further subdivided into four 40-acre quarters, and each 40-acre quarter is further subdivided into four 10-acre quarters. Each 160-, 40-, and 10-acre quarter is designated as the northeast, northwest, southwest, or southeast quarter (a, b, c, d respectively).

In the example here, the property for a well is in the southeastern-most township in the state, 24 townships south of the baseline, and 32 ranges east of the meridian, i.e., **T24S, R32E**. Within this township, the property lies in Section 28. The 10-acre white area where the well is located is in the southwest 40-acre quarter, then the southwest 10-acre quarter, and finally, the northeast 10-acre quarter. The *legal description* would be written as follows:

TOWNSHIP (T24S)	RANGE (R32E)	SECTION (28)	160 ACRE	40 ACRE	10 ACRE
			SW ¼	SW ¼	NE ¼

The *cadastral location* would be written as follows: **D (24-32) 28 cca**



RANGE 32 E											
6	5	4	3	2	1						
7	8	9	10	11	12						
18	17	16	15	14	13						
19	20	21	22	23	24						
30	29	28	27	26	25						
31	32	33	34	35	36						

SECTION 28					
NW ¼ 160 acres	NE ¼ 160 acres				
NW ¼ 40 acres	NE ¼ 40 acres				
SW ¼ 160 acres	SE ¼ 160 acres				
SW ¼ 40 acres	SE ¼ 40 acres				
SW ¼ 10 acres	SE ¼ 10 acres				

Township and Range data can be found on U.S. Geological Survey maps, and many metropolitan street atlases.

If you have any questions please contact:
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